

A.L.R.C. WOMEN'S ALLIANCE TWENTY-SIXTH CONVENTION
Worcester, Mass.

Spiritual Director, Rev. P. Juskaitis of Cambridge, Mass., with Rev. J. Jutt of Worcester, Mass., delivering an interesting and appropriate sermon.

Elected to the presidium were: Chairman — Mrs. Albina Poska (Ill.); Assistant Chairman — Mrs. Adele Hussey (Conn.); Lith. Sec. — Mrs. Tekla Mazeika (Mass.); English Sec. — Mrs. Antonia Wackell (Mass.).

Elected to the Supreme Board were: Pres. — Mrs. Julia Mack (Mass.); I Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Mary Srupsa (Ill.); II Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Adele Hussey (Conn.); Secretary — Mrs. Mary Vaiciunas (Ill.); Treas. — Mrs. Donna Kamm (Ill.); Trustees — Mrs. Mary Druktanis and Mrs. Natalie Satunas, both from Illinois.

Appointed Editor of "Moterų Dirva" was Mrs. Dale Murray (Ill.), and as Medical Examiner, Dr. Milda Budrys (Ill.). Rev. V. Valkavicius of Brockton, Mass. took over the duties of Supreme Spiritual Director.

State Directors: Conn. — Mrs. Charlotte Serwo; Ill. — Mrs. Mary Paukstis; Mass., Maine and N.H. — Mrs. M. Watkins; Mich. — Mrs. Stephanie Kryger; N.Y. and N.J. — Mrs. Anele Balbatis; Ohio — Mrs. A. Stepulionis; Pa. — Mrs. J. Tamanauskas.

Grievance Committee: Mrs. A. Poska, Mrs. E. Paurazas and Mrs. A. Glavickas.

Among the notable resolutions passed by this convention were: 1) that the Supreme Board continue its worthy program of Catholic Action,

cultural and social development; 2) that the II Vice-Pres. would form a committee to improve public relations and cultural programs. Reminded of the great need for preserving the Lithuanian language and traditions, the delegates resolved to aid in every way possible the Lithuanian parishes and institutes of learning; to subscribe to Lithuanian newspapers and support the Lithuanian press; and to speak the Lithuanian language in their own homes.

This convention was favored with a visit from the Lithuanian program director for the Voice of America, who taped interviews with various delegates for transmission to the women of Lithuania. It was a touching gesture and a never-to-be forgotten moment.

Activities of 1956

At the beginning of the new year, the printing of "Moterų Dirva" was returned to Chicago to the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society. The Supreme Board accepted the resignation of II Vice-Pres., Mrs. Adele Hussey (Conn.), and appointed Mrs. Genevieve Kaneb of Worcester, Mass. to the post.

To their grave sorrow, the members learned of the death in Siberia of Rev. Fabian Kemesis. Remembering this martyred priest, who contributed so much in organizing the Women's Alliance and was ever its faithful and constant supporter, the Supreme Board set aside July 1st, 1956, as a day of memorial, asking all the members to assist at mass and receive communion.

Three members of the Alliance were elected to the Board of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, Lithuanian section, namely: Mrs. Magdalena Galdikas, Pres.; Mrs. Genevieve Kaneb. Vice-Pres.; and, Dr. N. Brazenaitė, Secretary.

In Chicago, Alliance members became part of the first Lithuanian Song Festival to be held outside of Lithuania. Mrs. Josephine Dauzvardis was a member of the General Committee, which had begun its planning two years earlier; Mrs. Dale Murray was chairman of English publicity committee. Also on the committee was Mrs. Victoria Leone, President of the Chicago District.

Having changed her permanent residence to sunny Florida, Mrs. Helen Verbela (Statkus), long-time Supreme Treasurer of the organization, did not retire to inactivity, instead, she set about interesting women in the Alliance and successfully organized a new chapter — 18 — in Miami.

A Sorrowful Note

Rev. John J. Jakaitis residing in Argentina, informed the Alliance that he had just received word of the death of his sister, Antanina Jakaitytė, 71, three years earlier in Lithuania. Her first visit to America had been in 1913, when she came to live with her brother, then pastor of St. Casimir's parish in Worcester, Mass. During her six years in America, she devoted herself to Lithuanian women, helping them get organized into worthwhile activities. Together with Ursula T. Jokubauskas (Daukantas), Mrs. A. Nauseda and a few others, she helped organize the A.L.R.C. Women's Alliance and establish its monthly journal, the "Moterų Dirva."